

# PRESIDENT'S UNCLE THE FATHER OF AMERICAN FISH CULTURE

Robert B. Roosevelt, in an interview, Tells How He and Seth Green Established the First Fish Hatchery in America. Green Was Known as "The Father of the Fishes." His Patient Study of Brook Trout and Other Varieties.

By Dexter Marshall.

It was in 1855—perhaps a year earlier, perhaps a year later—that two men, one well along in the forties, the other not quite so far along in the thirties, met at the annual contest of the New York State Sportsmen's Association. The older man looked like a countryman. He was of middle height, but so broad and burly as to seem almost short. He had a full brown beard and mustache and wore a broad-brimmed hat. His face was marked by a continuously humorous expression which frequently expanded into a broad smile. He had a hearty laugh as was ever heard by mortal ears. His name was Seth Green.

The younger man was taller and thinner and his heavy beard was almost black. He looked like an educated man of the world, and so he was. His name was Robert B. Roosevelt; he was a brother of the elder Theodore Roosevelt, and uncle of the boy of the same name who now sits in the Presidential chair at Washington. Roosevelt's laugh was as hearty as Green's but apparently the two had little in common.

It was developed during the first meeting, however, that these two were the best fly casters present and his drew them together. For two or three years they met at each successive contest of the Sportsmen's Association and the acquaintance grew into close friendship. The result was the establishment of artificial fish culture in the United States. Fish had been propagated artificially in Europe more than a hundred years, but not so extensively, and Massachusetts had established a State Fish Commission in 1853, but it had made no practical progress.

The work done by Roosevelt and Green was more important than that of any who preceded them here or elsewhere, and the system of fish culture in the United States to-day is the most extensive in the world. It has led to the addition of millions of dollars' worth of fish foods to the resources of the country; operating under the United States Fish Commission, there are now fifty-five stations (hatcheries) and sub-stations located in twenty-nine States and Territories, besides the numerous State hatcheries. Last year the national commission distributed over a million and a half trout and salmon.

Seth Green has now been dead these ten or a dozen years. In his lifetime he was often termed "The Father of the Fishes." Robert B. Roosevelt is living at 77. Through all his many-angled life he has been known as "Uncle Bob," for his fondness for angling, and he may quite properly be termed "The Father of American Fish Culture." For while it was Green who studied the habits of the fishes and discovered their secrets, his efforts would have been comparatively ineffective without a practical man with money and influence at his command to help him. Roosevelt furnished these requisites.

**Mr. Roosevelt's Own Story.**

Surrounded by his books on the second floor of his old-fashioned Fifth Avenue home in New York the other day, he modestly told the story of the beginning and early development of the work which they accomplished.

"When Green and I first met," said Mr. Roosevelt, "I was anxious to secure the adoption by the State of proper game protection laws. So was Green, and his enthusiasm in this direction, as well as his skill with the rod, made him very interesting to me. I had read and heard a good deal about what was being done in Europe in the way of fish culture, and when Green said he had succeeded in hatching brook trout, and that he was interested in it, I was interested. He thought the raising of brook trout could be made profitable. He had found an ideal place to establish a hatchery some miles south of Rochester in Caledonia, where the brook trout was found in the wild. Ever been there? Then you know what a wonderful spring gushes out of the ground there; how clear the water is;

cold in summer, but of such nearly changeable temperature that it never freezes in the winter, and clear as a crystal, and how it boils up out of the earth.

"The shyest, gamest brook trout in the world were found in that wonderful spring and in the strong, clear stream, almost a little river, flowing from it. Through studying the trout in that spring, Seth had discovered the secret that made fish culture on a large scale possible. It is the secret of aeration, or more properly speaking oxygenation. Water, you know, carries oxygen in the form of a percentage of air. The eggs of all fish need plenty of oxygen while hatching. This is particularly true of trout, and they can get it no other way than by being placed where there is constant but gentle change of water at just the right temperature.

"We didn't know that when we began, but the trout have always known it, and Green watched them patiently till he found it out and learned just what they did to secure results. The brook trout, though long thought to be, and really is, a trout proper, at all but belongs to the rare 'char' family, and is native only in the streams of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and perhaps some parts of the Alleghany Mountain streams to the south of Pennsylvania. These streams are fed by springs, and the trout deposit their eggs just over the places where the springs gush out. Flat on his face, with his eyes close to the water, Green watched the fish pop up mounds of little stones over these places, saw them deposit their eggs in the chains between the stones and watched the eggs hatch out.

"Then he fixed up artificial spawning places in which the circulation of water should be as free and gentle as in the places selected by the trout themselves. Then he deposited trout eggs by the thousands under just the right conditions and waited. At first the hatchlings of the eggs hatched all right and the young fish were healthy and vigorous. When I was sure he knew what he was about, I bought the property on which the spring was located and the first trout hatchery in America was established. Not long afterward, through the efforts of the State Sportsmen's Association, the State Fish Commission was appointed. My friend Governor Horatio Seymour, Seth Green and myself were the first members. Later the State took over the hatchery, and Green, as a member of a commission, was made superintendent. That was the real beginning of fish culture in this country, and that was the way Green got a chance to do his life work.

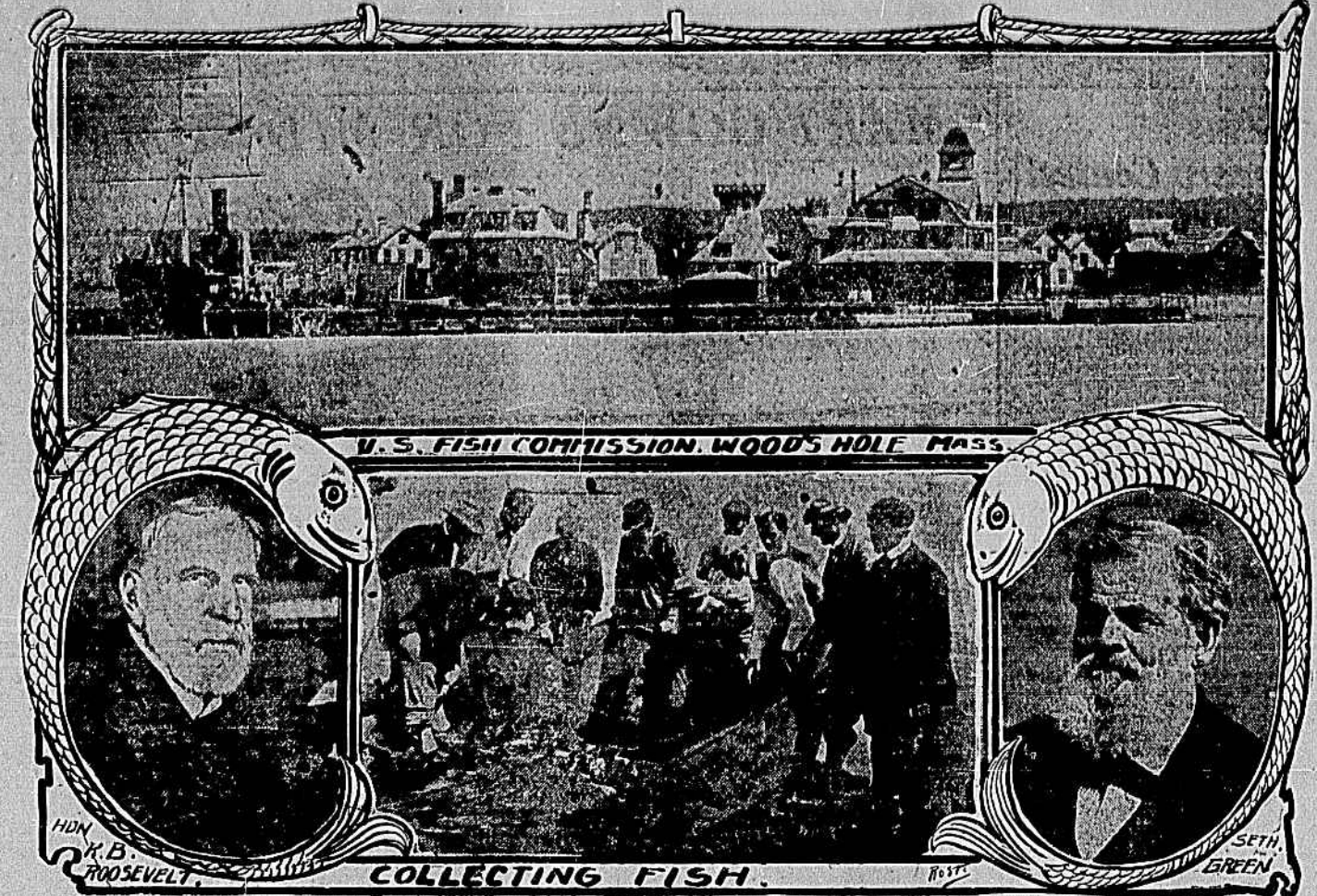
**Learning the Secrets of Fish.**

"Not long afterward Massachusetts wanted to borrow Green to carry on a hatchery at Hylolake. Through the Massachusetts commission was established fifteen years before it had accomplished little. We lent Green's services, of course, for our purpose was to help along fish culture in general, and we could not let a hatchery be established on the Hudson, but the conditions were not nearly so favorable as at Hylolake, and it was clear he could do pioneer hatchling work to much better advantage there.

"It took him quite a while to work out the problem—I don't remember just how long—but he kept at it till it was solved. He went right into the stream at the foot of the dam at Hylolake, standing waist deep for hours at a time, holding the seven-foot box containing the fish in the water, and he bubbled and boiled below the dam, inclining the box first one way and then the other and watching constantly till at last he had found out just how the eggs should be deposited and just the conditions that should surround them while hatching.

"No, I don't see him at this work; I had to stay at Caledonia and nurse the young trout there, but I shall never forget his story of how good he felt, when, at last, after watching that box day and week, he was satisfied that he had learned his lesson.

"I used to take Green to my Long Island home. In those days, and we would go cruising along the north shore in a queer little yacht. I then had, looking for a piece of time, a few boats and a few men. The north shore waters of Long Island are very shallow, but with the center board up the yacht didn't draw more than a foot of water, so we



could go close in. We tried everything we found that looked in the least like eggs.

"Once we found some little globules fastened together in long festoons, exactly like small beads strung on thread.

"They're eggs," said Green. I agreed with him and we put them into our hatching boxes.

"These were made of wood with wire screen bottoms through which the eggs must be fed and well fed, too, in every sense of the word. For, while trout are very voracious they are also the most delicate fish, with possibly one exception, that I know anything about.

"Well, Green tried food after food, with all kinds of dead trout as the result, but finally he succeeded, of course. We both had a great scare soon after we began to experiment with the famous Rainbow trout of California—a real trout, by the way, and not of the same species as the brook trout, though supposed to be.

"The rainbow trout are as hardy as the brook trout are delicate, and as quarrelsome among themselves as the brook trout are quiet. In the spawning season they will fight with the utmost fury, and the first hatch of the species we had to do with showed their disposition in that direction one day in a way that disheartened us.

"After the fight was over they were lying about in all conditions of exhaustion. Gills were torn, fins damaged and the first hatch of the species we had to do with showed their disposition in that direction one day in a way that disheartened us.

"One of the things Green learned early was the necessity of maintaining perfect cleanliness with the fish. Dirt is as bad for them as it is for people, and not all the men who were employed by the commission could seem to learn that lesson. One result of dirt is a disorder which we called 'the blue swelling' for lack of a better name. I remember the loss of 10,000 rainbow trout from that cause. The only treatment we knew of at that time was to put a little salt in the water they were kept in, and it didn't work that time.

**Where Webster Used to Fish.**

"It's curious about the development of

fish. As I have said the finest brook trout in the world are to be found in the waters of the Caledonia Creek, and its great spring source is the best place in the world to hatch them, but they do not grow as rapidly there as they do in the waters of Long Island. In the same time after they are hatched the fish will gain in weight at least a quarter more rapidly there. The water at Caledonia is hard—full of lime—while there is no lime in the Long Island water; that is the only reason for the difference that I can think of, but I don't know that it has anything to do with it.

"The brook trout of the Long Island streams used to be the biggest I ever saw. When I was only a small boy and that's a long time ago, now—I used to go fishing at Smithtown, to the north of our home. The best fishing ground was a big millpond owned by Aaron S. Vail. He used to charge well for the privilege, but it was worth it. In those days we never kept a brook trout that weighed less than a pound, and if you have ever cast a fly for trout you know from that that the fishing was good.

"It isn't so good any more, even in Vail's old pond. That pond, by the way, is now the property of the Wyandanch Fishing Club, famous to-day as a millionaire fishing resort. I don't fish any more, of course, but I go there sometimes in the auto to recall the old times. Daniel Webster used to fish that pond nearly every spring, and he used to stay at the Vail house. Pretty nearly everybody who can remember those old days is gone now, but the fact that Webster used to fish there is kept in mind by a sign on the house.

"Now Vail is dead, and so are all the members of his family. The last time I was there I was grieved to see that the house is falling to pieces from sheer neglect. There's a hole in the roof just over the room where I saw Webster after a day's fishing many times when a boy. Under the hole in the roof there's a hole in the floor—the whole place is going down.

"No, I never fished with Webster—I was too small. Vail used to take him out in the boat and used to tell us how Webster would study his speeches while on the water. Later Vail used to take me out in the boat. He was a good fisherman. He taught me to fish and he was the most enthusiastic admirer I ever had. He used to tell me how Webster fished.

"Webster was a gross fisherman—he used a big fly. The biggest part of his fishing was done in fifteen to thirty feet of water, and, curiously enough, the days of his fishing were about the last of the big trout at Smithtown.

"Vail has told me often how Webster liked to study his speeches while fishing. He used to do what Bourke Cockran does now, I believe—think up some strong sounding sentence, without any special reference to its application to any subject, and then polish it up, add a word here and substitute another there till it was just right. When he was out on the Vail pond fishing he would rehearse such sentences—try them out and see how they sounded, and his big voice would roll over the water as he declaimed.

"He had tried out such a sentence he would pack it away in the back of his head ready for use in whatever speech it would fit into as a sort of climax. Sometimes a trout would take his fly just when he was in the midst of rehearsing a long speech on some great question, for he used to practice on complete addresses as well as specially constructed sentences—and then there would be fun.

"I often fished with grasshoppers when I was a boy—yes, and I used sometimes to use the old-fashioned short horsehair line, made by twisting the horsehair together with two quills, sometimes I fished in clear, shallow, narrow brooks, where I had to sneak up crawling, for fear that the fish would see me, and drop the wriggling grasshopper in just the right spot. Maybe I'd take a walk along the brook one day and see a big trout lying quietly in the cool clear water between two clumps of weeds. The fish would see me as soon as I'd see him and be away in a twinkling. It would be no use to try for him then—he'd be gone. But the next day he'd be pretty sure to be in his favorite spot and I'd sneak up, get in between the two clumps of weeds without scaring him, and get him.

**United States Fish Commission.**

"But that isn't the story of the development of fish culture. Our work at two Caledonia and the other hatcheries of the New York Fish Commission attracted attention all over the country, and laws establishing similar commissions have been passed in nearly half the States. I was invited to appear before various legislatures and to furnish the records of our work to others. We sent Green all over the country to study all sorts

of fish, and the good work went on rapidly.

In 1872, while was a member of Congress, Gardfield introduced a bill for the establishment of the National Fish Commission, and it went through with a rush. Immediately after its passage Spencer F. Baird was made the head of the commission, which was attached to the Smithsonian Institution. That was in 1872. Baird was a true sportsman, a scientist and devoted to his work. He started the commission, now of such far-reaching importance, in the right way. With its wider field and greater resources the United States Fish Commission has been able to do many things, of course, that no State commission could do.

The initial fish cultural operations of Roosevelt and Green were devoted mainly to the brook trout, but it occupied a minor place in the operations of the Government Fish Commission, the lake trout, the elcose, perch, bass, pollock, and lobster receiving the greater amount of attention. Yet about ten millions and a half brook trout, and a half million bass, and an adult fish, were distributed last year, including 300,000 eggs for Argentina, so that brook trout may eventually be found in the streams of South America.

The habitat of the brook trout in this country has been extended by the Commission also, notably in Colorado. Its mountain streams were long thought to be especially adapted to the brook trout. It is now widely distributed over the State, and it exists there in greater numbers perhaps than in any other State. The Colorado streams, in fact, have become the chief source of supply for wild brook trout eggs.

Shad and striped bass from the Atlantic seaboard have been introduced upon the Pacific coast by the Commission, that more than 4,000,000 pounds of these two varieties of fish are caught annually on the western coast, the returns to the fishermen being \$300,000. The introduction of Pacific coast fish on the Atlantic seaboard, ever, has not been equally successful. The attempt to acclimate the Chinese salmon in eastern waters having failed completely. This year attempts are being made to introduce the silver salmon and the humpback salmon. On the Pacific coast, streams and lakes have been introduced into Lake Superior have fared well in their new home as the brook trout in Colorado. The introduction having been made later, however, the steelheads are not yet as numerous as the brook trout. More plaice perch were distributed last year than fish of any other variety, the numbers being only about a hundred thousand less than 400,000. Next came shad, of which about 350,000 of eggs and fry were distributed.

The grand total of 1,748,475,000 fry and fish distributed were divided among thirty-six varieties, most of them being fresh water fish, though sea fish are by no means neglected. Massachusetts leads in the distribution, having received more than 370,000,000. Ohio comes next, with more than 362,000,000. Delaware with 2,880 stands last on the list, but every State and Territory except Alaska was included in the distribution last year, and this year Alaska also is being included. Besides the brook trout eggs sent to Argentina, nearly half a million eggs of other varieties were sent to that country, more than 1,800,000 to New Zealand, and smaller quantities to individual applicants in France and Germany.

In 1905 the bureau's distribution cars were hauled 2,234 miles while loaded, distributed 1,234,000,000 eggs, valued at \$900,000, an increase of 25 per cent. in car mileage and 188 in messenger mileage. The bureau's department biological investigations and experiments is among its most important work. It is among its most important work of the Canadian Fish Commission with that of the United States is of great value to all concerned. It has led to an enormous increase of value in the fisheries of the Great Lakes, which is only one of the many ways in which the work of the bureau has been of benefit to the people. The success is because of the well-known fact that there are several universal traits of Jewish character which, if observed by other nationalities, would tend to make them equally successful in life. The first of these is unflinching energy and devotion to business; the second is the practice of economy, and the third is regard for the domestic virtues. It stands to reason that any young man who will work and save his money and take care of his health stands a better chance to get on in the world than one who does not. These cardinal principles of well-being. These traits are really the basis for Jewish success.

When beset by such circumstances as surround him in Russia, it is not strange that the Jew often becomes dishonest. The wonder is that he can even exist in the world as he is. While I was in Warsaw the inside story of a big wheat deal was made public, which served to illustrate the cunning of the Hebrew when the odds are against him. When the wheat crop of a certain section was high about twenty cents, the Russian, Armenian and Greek buyers agreed to overbid the Hebrew traders to keep them out of the deal. However, the Jews paid seventy cents a bushel for the grain, paid the transportation to the seacoast, and then sold it for sixty cents. How it was possible to do this and still make a profit was a mystery for some time. The explanation came out several months later when the shipment was refused in London because it was heavily used with sand.

The industry of the Jew dealer in this instance was caused by the desire of some of their own people to find out how the trick was turned.

Known as "Fisherman Bob" All Through His Years of Active Life—Daniel Webster's Favorite Long Island Fishing Resort.

# PLIGHT OF THE JEW IN THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE TO-DAY.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 5.—If there is one thing for which the Russians deserve condemnation it is their long, brutal record of cruelty to the Jew. The plight of the hated Hebrew in this sordid, rudderless empire is simply sickening. If the shameful torturing facts were put together in a connected narrative of cold, straightforward truth, the reader would regard the account as a fanciful sketch inspired by nightmare. Such a chronicle might well begin with the memory of the Easter Sunday in Kishineff, when the people left off chanting their anthems about the risen Christ, and went forth to butcher Jews as ruthlessly as they would slaughter rattlesnakes in their holes. There is no fiction about the horrors of Kishineff. The Jews ran red and raw, and their small inflated bladders burst. The brute instincts of the mob that warmed through the Ghetto. Where did the ancient pagans ever outdo these modern ones in sheer devilry? Where were such inventions of torture or acts of downright cruelty ever excelled?

**Gift for a Bride.**

The murderers surprised a Hebrew bridegroom in a florist's shop in the act of buying flowers for his bride. They hacked him to flesh and bone in a box, and with much laughter and many jeers sent it to the waiting girl as a wedding present. They overhauled a fleeing woman in the street—a woman who was about to become a mother—and what did they do? They cut her throat with a driving a spike through her head. Then they stripped her and cursed her and beat her until the life was all gone out of the asseccrated body hanging limp before them. As I said before this is not fiction. These things really happened in Kishineff. These things really happened in Kishineff when the populace finished its Easter chant to the saints and started out to "have some fun with the Jews."

Hundreds of similar instances might be cited, only that the gruesome enumeration would simply grate upon the nerves. When the mob had gone and quiet once more reigned in the troubled city, the former Jews came forth from their hiding places and began dragging their dead from the gutters. Such a sight as the light of the moon revealed that night

could not help but embitter any right-thinking person against the government that allowed such heinous things to occur. It included old men rolling in gore from eyes that had been gouged out with sticks; babes that had been snatched from their mothers' breasts and impaled on wooden spikes; and young girls whose bodies were literally torn to pieces by the rough hands of ravishers. A list of the fiendish acts of cruelty would equal the atrocities of a massacre conceived by savages in the dark ages. Fifteen streets of the Jewish quarter were completely sacked, and more than two thousand Hebrew homes and stores were looted and demolished. But, you ask, where were the police? The officers of the Czar either stood by or else themselves joined in the slaughter.

"They did not turn a hand to prevent the sack and destruction of the Jewish quarter. They never do. Things have come to such a pass that every rowdy in the Russian empire knows that he can maltreat a Jew without being apprehended.

**To Leave the Pale.**

The Russian government not only fails to protect the Jewish portion of the population, but it has deprived it of almost all the advantages of citizenship. In the first place, the right of residence is limited to a zone consisting of a few provinces, which is called the Pale. The right of residence anywhere else in Russia is allowed only to those Jews who are graduates from a university, or those who pay a merchant's tax of \$750 a year, or a tax of \$100 a year for a license to trade for five years before the Jew may live wherever he pleases by paying the same. It is said that thousands of families pay this tax to the government when their income is really little more than what it amounts to, simply to enjoy the freedom of movement which is so cherished by the individual and which should be the equal right of all.

In the matter of occupation the Jew has very little latitude. He cannot own property anywhere in the Russian empire; he cannot own factory shares, nor shares in any business where land must be used; he is not allowed to hold a commission in the army; he cannot inaugurate a school for either Jews or Christians; he cannot be a college professor; and he was only recently permitted to be a lawyer. At the present time there is only one Hebrew judge in all of Russia. No Jew can act as a teacher for a Christian, and Christians are forbidden to



A TYPICAL RUSSIAN SCHOOL WITH ITS TEACHERS.

enter the employ of Jewish families. Sometimes a Christian servant girl will enter the employ of a Hebrew family, but the policeman on the beat regularly collects tribute for allowing her to remain. There are only a few businesses which Jews are allowed to manage, and only one or two of them may belong to the directorate of any company.

**Shameless Neglect of Heroes.**

To engage in any of the few callings which are open to him, the Jew must bribe his way from first to last in order to get on at all. During the late war many private physicians who were Hebrews were drafted and taken to the front as surgeons, but no matter how good their record, none of these men were officially recognized, and those of them who were disabled while in the service of the country were afterward dismissed without pension. I even heard of one who had served throughout the entire war with great credit, and who came home disabled, being discharged without enough funds to pay his way home.

Onerous restrictions are placed upon them in regard to practicing their religion. For years the Jewish population in Moscow was allowed only one small synagogue for the entire community, with the understanding that there should be no lower on the building and that it should not be luxuriously furnished. This structure was so small that it could not possibly accommodate all who wished to attend the religious feasts, and on all such occasions many ladies fainted and old men had to be carried out for want of air. The authorities would on no account allow them to even rent a building where they could have more space. The petition was even denied to secure a room with a higher ceiling so that better ventilation would be afforded.

**Difficulties of Education.**

Another great injustice concerns the limitations placed on education. In St. Petersburg only three per cent. of the entire scholarship of the schools may be Jews, which is not nearly enough to accommodate the Hebrew population of the city. In other places ten per cent. is the most that will be allowed, although the

population runs as high as fifty or sixty per cent. The Hebrew who wants to keep his child in school must first pay to get him in, and then constantly bribe the officials to keep him there.

In some of the schools they are not allowed at all. The Jewish student who expects to enter the university must be at the head of his class for eight years or he has no show to matriculate.

On account of the certainty that he must excel, the young Jew always does his level best, and in every school where they are allowed to enter the class leaders are almost invariably Hebrews.

Back of all these restrictions is that deep-seated prejudice which breaks into a fury of physical violence on the least provocation. The hatred of the peasants for the Jews is kept alive by circulating malicious and improbable canards. One of these, which has taken deep root in the minds of the ignorant masses, is the charge that human blood is necessary in the celebration of the Jewish Passover. Once, when a Christian child was found dead in a village near Kishineff, just as the Passover was approaching, the cry

was raised among the Russians that the baby had been killed by the Jews for its blood.

While there was not a shred of reliable evidence to fasten crime on anybody, and the most prominent physicians of Odessa testified that the child was dead, the unreasoning populace refused to be convinced, and much trouble resulted.

**What Caused a Riot.**

While I was in St. Petersburg the papers contained the account of a riot that occurred in a nearby village. The disturbance began in the morning and lasted until 10 o'clock at night, during which time many people were injured and a score of Jewish stores were looted by the peasants. The provocation for this outbreak was said to have been the action of a crowd of Jewish raiders in overturning the vessels where the preparations were being made for holding the Passover. The Jews were charged with the further charge that the Jews spat upon the holy relics and sacred images. Careful investigation showed that the sum and substance of the offense was that some Hebrew children ran about the village without knowing it was a trespass; there was no desecration intended and no mortification of any kind committed.

An oft-repeated dodge to cause an outbreak against the Jews is for a crowd of Russian rowdies to impersonate Jews by putting on false beards and wearing the Jewish hat. Although these disguises are so thin that the police laugh at the joke, the report invariably circulates that the Jews are the offenders and they suffer accordingly. The thought that will naturally be in the mind of the university student who hears of this is, why are the Jews so nervous? What have they done to bring down upon them so much malice and resentment? In answering these questions I will first say that I am not a Jew and have no reason for defending them other than the wish to be just. The Jews undoubtedly have their faults, but the fair observer of conditions in Russia can certainly find no warrant for their being deprived of the rights of citizenship, for being eternally harassed and brow-beaten and murdered. The first cause of the trouble is unquestionably the pronounced progressiveness of the Jewish peasant has no desire to see his son in a higher place than that occupied

by his father. It has been aptly said that the farmer breeds a farmer's son, and the winoseller begets never anything but a wine-seller.

**Why the Jew Succeeds.**

But with the Jew it is different. Although surrounded by the filth and poverty of the Ghetto, he strives to lift himself above it. He plans to improve the future of his children. All his desires center upon the task of fitting them for a better life than he enjoys. He educates them and teaches them by his own example the value of perseverance and thrift. Surely these are not traits for which a man should be pronounced against and hounded to the earth. Many people claim that the reason the Jew succeeds is because he is dishonest. But there are several universal traits of Jewish character which, if observed by other nationalities, would tend to make them equally successful in life. The first of these is unflinching energy and devotion to business; the second is the practice of economy, and the third is regard for the domestic virtues. It stands to reason that any young man who will work and save his money and take care of his health stands a better chance to get on in the world than one who does not. These cardinal principles of well-being. These traits are really the basis for Jewish success.

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